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Executive Registry

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22 April 1959
RCI

lead

General William H. Draper, Jr.
Chairman
The President's Committee
To Study the United States Military
Assistance Program
708 Jackson Place, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Bill:

I have your note of 9 April 1959, enclosing a letter of the same date you have addressed to General Twining, with regard to the possibility of effecting a mutual reduction of forces in India and Pakistan, and the effect of recent area developments on such a move.

There is no doubt that developments in China, including the revolt in Tibet and the ruthless attempt at suppression by the Chinese Communists, have caused grave concern in India and in other parts of South and Southeast Asia. However, since neither Pakistan nor India can look forward to a military build-up which in itself would be adequate to counter a direct military attack by the Chinese Communists, I doubt whether these developments should affect taking such action with regard to mutual reduction of forces as might otherwise be deemed to be desirable and in the interest of building a stronger economy in these countries.

Or, to put it another way, I do not believe that the answer to the growing Chinese Communist threat is as much military as it is political and economic. The answer to open military aggression by the Communist world certainly is not to be found in an attempt at massive military build-up by each of the states threatened by world communism.

(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY) *White House*

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It is also arguable that a reduction in overall defense spending could take place without an adverse effect on the capabilities of India and Pakistan to protect their Himalayan borders. Indeed, abandonment or modification of some of their more expensive military modernization programs, which are directed primarily against each other, might release funds and manpower which could be used to strengthen northern border security, as well as to promote general economic development.

Finally, it is apparent that events in Mainland China, and I would include the "commune" development as well as Tibet as a factor, may tend to create a climate of public opinion in countries such as India and Pakistan, who deeply distrust each other, where it may be harder to persuade them to take measures to limit their military strength, even though in our opinion such limitation and the placing of emphasis on other strengthening factors would put them in an over-all posture better able to meet the Communist menace.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles

Director

DCI/AWD/ji

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